

Message Text

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64

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 /134 W

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R 271137Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6292

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS NAIROBI 2576

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UG

SUBJ: UGANDA COUP ATTEMPT

REF: BONN 4828 (NOTAL)

1. FURTHER TO REFTEL: NAIROBI EAST AFRICAN STANDARD
MARCH 27 IN FRONT PAGE STORY REPORTS MARCH 23 ATTEMPTED
COUP IS BELIEVED TO HAVE FOLLOWED A PURGE OF LUGHARA
MILITARY OFFICERS BY GENERAL AMIN.

2. QUOTING WESTERN DIPLOMATIC SOURCES IN KAMPALA THE
ARTICLE STATES QTE FIFTY DISSIDENT OFFICERS HAD BEEN
KILLED OR FLED CAPITAL AND REMAINING LUGBARAS ATTEMPTED
TAKE OVER POWER AIDED BY DISSIDENTS OF OTHER TRIBES.

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UNQTE.

3. SAME DIPLOMATIC SOURCES REPORTEDLY SAID TROUBLE AROSE OUT OF MURDER OF FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER ONDOGA. LUGBARA OFFICERS BLAMED AMIN FOR ONDOGA DEATH AND DAMAGED ONE OF AMIN'S HOMES IN RAGE. THIS RESULTED IN PURGE ON MARCH 22.

4. ALMOST SIMULTANEOUSLY, THE ARTICLE CONTINUES, LUGBARA OFFICERS WERE PLANNING COUP. BATTLE JOINED MARCH 23 EVENING AND CONTINUED FOR 14 HOURS.

5. ARTICLE ENDS QUOTING AMIN AFTER COUP QUASHED SAYING QTE WE ARE HAPPY AND THERE IS NO REASON TO WORRY AT ALL. WHAT HAPPENED LAST SATURDAY SHOWEDHOW POWERFUL WE ARE AND HOW LOYAL THE TROOPS ARE TO ME. UNQTE.

6. NAIROBI DAILY NATION MARCH 27 CARRIES FRONT PAGE STORY BASICALLY SAME BUT QUOTING AMIN AS ABSOLVING USSR OF ANY BLAME FOR ATTEMPTED COUP. AMIN STATED QTE I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT NOBODY SHOULD ACCUSE THE SOVIET UNION FOR HAVING BRAINWASHED BRIG. CHARLES ARUBE WHEN HE WAS ON COURSE THERE. UNQTE. ARTICLE EXPLAINS THAT RUBE, FORMER ACTING CHIEF OF STAFF HAD ONLY RECENTLY RETURNED FROM TRAINING IN USSR WHEN HE LED COUP ATTEMPT.

7. ARTICLE PUTS DEATH TOLL FROM SATURDAY VIOLENCE AT 400 CIVILIAN AND MILITARY. MARSHALL

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